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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /106 W
----------017611 011431Z /43
R 010837Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, RP
SUBJECT: ILO, 17TH SESSION OF THE ASIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
OPENING SESSION - REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN MORRIS

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ILO GOVERNING BODY CHAIRMAN JOE MORRIS IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE 17TH SESSION OF THE ASIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MUST BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR A TLEAST TRYING TO MAKE THE CASE AS TO WHY THE US WITHDREW FROM ILO. END SUMMARY.

2. MORRIS SAID, "YOU ALL KNOW THE ILO IS PASSING THROUGH A

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DIFFICULT PERIOD DUE TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM OUR ORGANIZATION. AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNING BODY HAS HAD TO READJUST ITS PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-79 TO MEET THE GAP IN RESOURCES, WHICH IS 25 PER CENT OR ABOUT 42.3 MILLION US DOLLARS FOR THIS PERIOD. THE US DECISION HAS FORCED A REVALUATION OF THE ILO'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES. THERE IS HARDLY ANY INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMME WHICH HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT WHICH I REGRET WILL BE ESPECIALLY FELT IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE, IN WHICH I AM SURE YOU WILL BE INTERESTED, THE MANAGEMENT OF FIELD PROGRAMMES IN ASIA WOULD BE REDUCED BY NEARLY 20 PERCENT. A SIMILAR CUT HAS BEEN APPROVED IN THE VERY IMPORTANT PROGRAMME OF EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. AN ALL-ROUND CUT OF ABOUT 21.7 PERCENT OF THE 169 MILLION BUDGET HAD TO BE PROPOSED TO BALANCE EXPENDITURES WITH RE-SOURCES. THE PROBLEM IS FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY CONTINUING WORLDWIDE INFLATION AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY. WHILE WE ARE, INDEED, SORRY AND REGRET THE US DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO, WE TRUST IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SOON FIND ITS WAY TO REJOIN THIS UNIQUE TRIPARTITE WORLD ORGANISATION, WHICH IS NOT ONLY THE OLDEST OF THE UN INSTITUTIONS BUT, IN ITS FOUNDATION IN 1919, THE AMERICAN LABOUR MOVEMENT PLAYED A LEADING ROLE. THE ILO WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY AND I AM CONVINCED IT MUST REMAIN THAT WAY.

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3. SOME SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO. WHILE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT, AT TIMES, TO CLEARLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SIMPLE LABOUR AND POLITICAL ISSUES-- FOR EXAMPLE, THE WORKER'S STRUGGLE FOR THE FORTY HOUR WEEK IN THE EARLY TWENTIES WAS VIEWED BY SOME AS A POLITICAL MOTIVATION OR THE QUESTION OF WORKERS' PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES OR IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS - BUT THE ILO WAS CLEARLY DESTINED TO TACKLE ISSUES OF LABOUR-MANAGEMENT AND TO IMPROVE THE WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF ALL WORKERS, AS WELL AS TO SET MINIMUM STANDARDS. BUT ANY ATTEMPT AT BRINGING UP ISSUES WHICH ARE EXTRANEOUS TO THE ILO'S MANDATE, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, DOES CAUSE INCALCULABLE HARM TO THE ORGANISATION. IN OUR OVER-ENTHUSIASM WE MUST NOT TRESPASS INTO PROBLEMS WHICH CLEARLY BELONG TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN THE UN FAMILY. WE HAVE CLEARLY ASSIGNED A ROLE TO OURSELVES AND WE MUST CONFINE OURSELVES TO THAT ROLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND GOVERNMENT - ILO'S TRIPARTITE CONSTITUENTS. I BELIEVE THAT SOME LESSONS MUST BE DRAWN FROM THE PRESENT EXPERIENCE AND WE MUST SERIOUSLY APPLY OUR MIND TO FACE THE FUTURE WITH COURAGE AND DZTERMINATION TO UPHOLD THE DIGNITY, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANISATION. EACH OF OUR TRIPARTITE CONSTITUENTS

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HAS A STAKE IN THE ORGANISATION AND MUST BE PREPARED TO
UNDERTAKE THEIR SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO LEND FURTHER
SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN THE ILO. THE ILO MUST CONTINUE ITS
MISSION TO PROMOTE SOCIAL PROGRESS WITH JUSTICE THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR, AND I AM SURE IT CAN CON-
TINUE TO COUNT ON THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS. END QUOTE

4. ONLY THE TIMES JOURNAL CARRIED PARTIAL REFERENCE TO
THESE REMARKS BY MORRIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Message ID: d3f6cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 18850
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 113562
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO, 17TH SESSION OF THE ASIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE: OPENING SESSION - REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN MORRIS
TAGS: ELAB, RP, XB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3f6cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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